



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

August 5, 2015

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Hawaii Bankruptcy Judge to Join Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel

SAN FRANCISCO – Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the appointment of Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris of Honolulu to a seven-year term on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP, which resolves appeals arising out of bankruptcy court decisions in the western states.

Judge Faris is one of two judges sitting on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii, which handled 1,731 cases in calendar year 2014. He was appointed to the bankruptcy bench in 2002. Judge Faris has served as the district's chief bankruptcy judge since 2002. His appointment to the BAP is effective August 18, 2015.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Faris had practiced with a Honolulu law firm, emphasizing bankruptcy, insolvency and commercial litigation since 1983. He is a member of the American Bar Association, American Bankruptcy Institute, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and the American College of Bankruptcy.

Judge Faris taught debtors and creditors rights at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law, one semester per year for most of the last decade. Since 2008, Judge Faris has coordinated the Credit Abuse Resistance Education, or C.A.R.E., program in Hawaii. He has served as an observer on the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit from 2008 to 2009; as chair of the Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges from 2008 to 2009; and as a member of the Ninth Circuit Space and Security Committee from 2011 to 2015.

Judge Faris received his B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, in economics from Reed College in 1980 and his J.D. in 1983 from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, where he served as an associate editor of the California Law Review from 1982 to 1983, published an article in 1982 and was Order of the Coif.

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The BAP is based in the Richard H. Chambers United States Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California. Historically, the BAP has handled between 49 percent and 60 percent of all bankruptcy appeals originating out of bankruptcy courts throughout the Ninth Circuit (district courts hear the remainder).

The BAP was established in 1979 by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit as an alternative forum for hearing bankruptcy appeals. Since then, it has disposed of more than 15,000 cases, including more than 5,000 decided on the merits. New appeals filed numbered 976 in fiscal year 2014.

BAP judges serve a term of seven years and are eligible for a 3-year extension. Other bankruptcy judges from around the circuit also serve on appellate panels on a pro tem basis.

The Ninth Circuit was the first federal circuit to establish a bankruptcy appellate panel. Other circuits with bankruptcy appellate panels are the First, Sixth, Eighth and Tenth circuits. For more information, visit: <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/bap/>.

The U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit consists of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the federal district and bankruptcy courts in 15 judicial districts serving nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions.

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